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Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 /095 W
----------100610Z 091579 /13
R 091100Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2144
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CG, PGOV, PDEV
SUBJECT: MOBUTU MEETS POLITICAL BUREAU, GIVES ASSURANCES ON TAXES, SETS REVIEW OF EDUCATION BUDGET

REF: (A) KINSHASA 1922, (B) KINSHASA 1232

1. FOLLOWING MOBUTU'S FIRST MEETING WITH THE NEW NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (MARCH 2), THE PRESIDENT BOARDED HIS RIVERBOAT KAMANYOLA FOR THREE DAYS OF MEETINGS WITH THE POLITICAL BUREAU (MARCH 3-6). ACCORDING TO THE VOICE OF ZAIRE, THE MEETINGS WERE MARKED BY "LONG AND ANIMATED" DEBATE OVER UNSPECIFIED TAX MEASURES. REPORTEDLY, THE PRESIDENT ASSURED THE POLITICAL COMMISSIONERS THAT TEX MEASURES RECENTLY INSTITUTED BY THE NEC WERE DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE PRODUCTIVITY AND TO PROTECT THE POPULATION FROM LOCALLY PERPETRATED TAX ABUSES.

2. THE PRESIDENT ALSO NAMED FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU THREE COMMISSIONS TO STUDY THE 1977 OPERATING BUDGET OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL EDUCATION. ACCORDING TO ELIMA (MARCH 8), THIS BUDGET WAS SINGLED OUT FOR SCRUTINY
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BECAUSE, DURING A PERIOD OF ANNOUNCED FISCAL AUSTERITY, IT HAD JUMPED FROM 98 MILLION ZAIRES IN 1976 TO 163 MILLION ZAIRES FOR 1977.

3. COMMENT: AS NOTED IN REFTEL (A), MOBUTU'S GOVERNMENT MUST HOLD DOWN SPENDING AND INCREASE REVENUES IN 1977 IF IT IS TO AVOID OVERWHELMING FISCAL DEFICIT. YET AS MOBUTU LEARNED LAST MONTH

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DURING DEBATE ON A TAX BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (REFTEL B),
A SUDDEN INCREASE IN TAXES DURING THIS PERIOD OF ECONOMIC
STAGNATION COULD GENERATE SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL UNREST AND COULD
FURTHER ACERBATE DIVISIONS AMONG THE ELITE UPON WHOM HE RELIES.
THUS, MOBUTU'S THREE DAY BOAT TRIP WITH THE POLITICAL COMMISSIONERS
CAN BE SEEN AS AN ATTEMPT BOTH TO REPLY TO INTERNAL CRITICISM
AND TO LINE UP NECESSARY SUPPORT FOR THE UNPLEASANT MEASURES
AHEAD.
WALKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, POLICIES, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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